

# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, OCTOBER 1986

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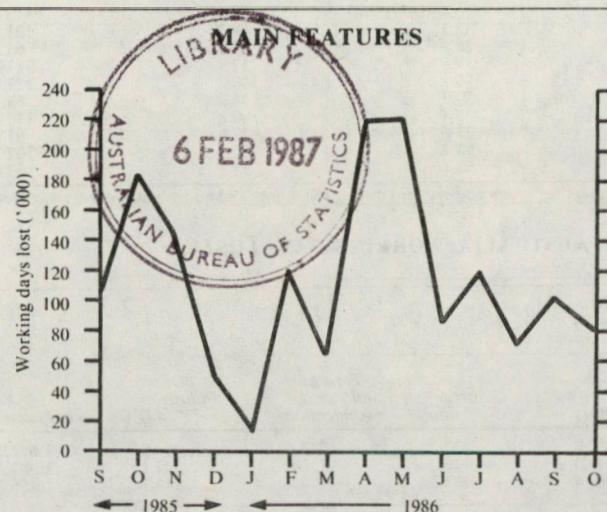
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In October 1986, 83,600 working days were lost by 74,100 workers in 192 disputes. In the 12 months ended October 1986, 1,286,600 working days were lost compared with 1,296,900 and 1,299,500 working days lost in the 12 months ended October 1985 and October 1984 respectively.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Coverage

The statistics relate only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

2. The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.

3. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

#### Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.

5. *Workers involved* include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of workers involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Workers re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

7. *Working days lost* refer to working days lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of workers involved and the duration of the dispute.

8. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes involving stoppages of work of ten working days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Working days lost in agriculture, etc. and in private households employing staff have been excluded from Tables 4 and 5 but included in Tables 1 to 3.

9. The estimates of employees are obtained from the Labour Force survey.

#### Other ABS publications

10. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information including statistics on the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

*Labour Statistics, Australia, 1985* (6101.0) (\$6.50)

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly (\$1.80)

11. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

r figures revised since last issue

12. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

IAN CASTLES  
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	
1983	1,779	1,787	452.8	470.2	1,641.4
1984	1,958	1,965	551.1	560.3	1,307.4
1985	1,830	1,845	552.6	570.5	1,256.2
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>					
October 1984	1,902	1,923	458.6	474.7	1,299.5
1985	1,865	1,887	625.2	630.9	1,296.9
1986	1,696	1,720	673.8	678.0	1,286.6
<i>1985—</i>					
November	176	200	52.1	56.3	142.4
December	104	117	29.2	32.4	45.0
<i>1986—</i>					
January	77	84	6.3	8.5	15.2
February	155	164	32.3	48.3	121.0
March	142	158	26.9	43.1	63.1
April	111	131	33.6	52.9	221.1
May	162	178	236.1	240.2	221.8
June	118	130	30.3	35.2	83.5
July	194	208	75.4	80.8	119.9
August	132	147	27.6	29.6	67.3
September	r151	r171	r53.9	r64.1	r102.7
October	174	192	70.1	74.1	83.6

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Manufacturing							
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Coal	Other						
1983	122.8	194.7	157.6	120.7	337.2	213.6	494.8	1,641.4
1984	131.1	193.2	144.8	249.3	116.3	150.6	322.1	1,307.4
1985	233.8	106.4	107.3	189.4	175.3	180.4	263.7	1,256.2
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>								
October 1984	118.3	202.3	131.0	235.0	186.1	166.0	260.9	1,299.5
1985	241.2	81.6	131.4	196.9	171.0	150.7	324.1	1,296.9
1986	354.4	195.6	172.6	184.0	112.6	118.0	149.4	1,286.6
<i>1985—</i>								
November	7.1	32.9	5.6	14.9	10.3	57.6	14.1	142.4
December	18.6	3.1	3.5	3.0	3.3	4.9	8.7	45.0
<i>1986—</i>								
January	1.5	1.0	1.7	1.3	4.3	2.8	2.6	15.2
February	83.3	6.6	4.0	3.3	5.3	3.8	14.8	121.0
March	15.6	5.0	12.2	9.8	3.4	8.5	8.7	63.1
April	150.7	22.9	7.3	11.8	4.4	4.6	19.4	221.1
May	23.1	20.7	82.2	18.9	52.2	11.6	13.1	221.8
June	6.5	29.2	9.0	12.8	9.1	9.3	7.6	83.5
July	17.5	28.4	9.2	30.7	6.9	9.9	17.2	119.9
August	5.3	31.6	7.0	11.0	3.3	2.6	6.6	67.3
September	r6.8	11.6	11.8	48.1	7.0	1.1	16.3	r102.7
October	18.4	2.7	19.1	18.4	3.2	1.5	20.4	83.6

(a) Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
1983	801.2	257.7	135.0	87.7	270.6	67.8	1,641.4
1984	660.6	187.5	236.5	25.5	119.2	50.5	1,307.4
1985	398.7	355.9	336.2	22.5	92.9	20.7	1,256.2
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
October 1984	576.4	205.7	221.9	19.9	188.2	59.2	1,299.5
1985	478.7	319.6	330.1	27.0	91.7	23.9	1,296.9
1986	586.9	285.3	184.5	41.2	133.7	27.4	1,286.6
<i>1985—</i>							
November	30.3	64.3	29.3	0.9	11.8	0.8	142.4
December	22.9	6.9	3.7	1.7	3.2	1.4	45.0
<i>1986—</i>							
January	5.7	4.8	1.1	0.7	1.7	0.8	15.2
February	82.1	6.9	20.3	1.8	5.6	1.8	121.0
March	37.3	12.2	3.4	2.3	4.1	0.8	63.1
April	119.3	19.6	57.2	1.6	20.7	0.3	221.1
May	91.5	69.0	13.5	19.9	18.2	7.0	221.8
June	54.4	12.2	3.9	0.7	3.2	8.0	83.5
July	59.9	20.5	19.9	3.6	12.7	2.6	119.9
August	12.6	11.8	7.4	2.9	31.7	0.6	67.3
September	r33.6	29.5	18.9	3.1	13.4	1.5	r102.7
October	37.2	27.8	6.0	2.1	7.3	1.7	83.6

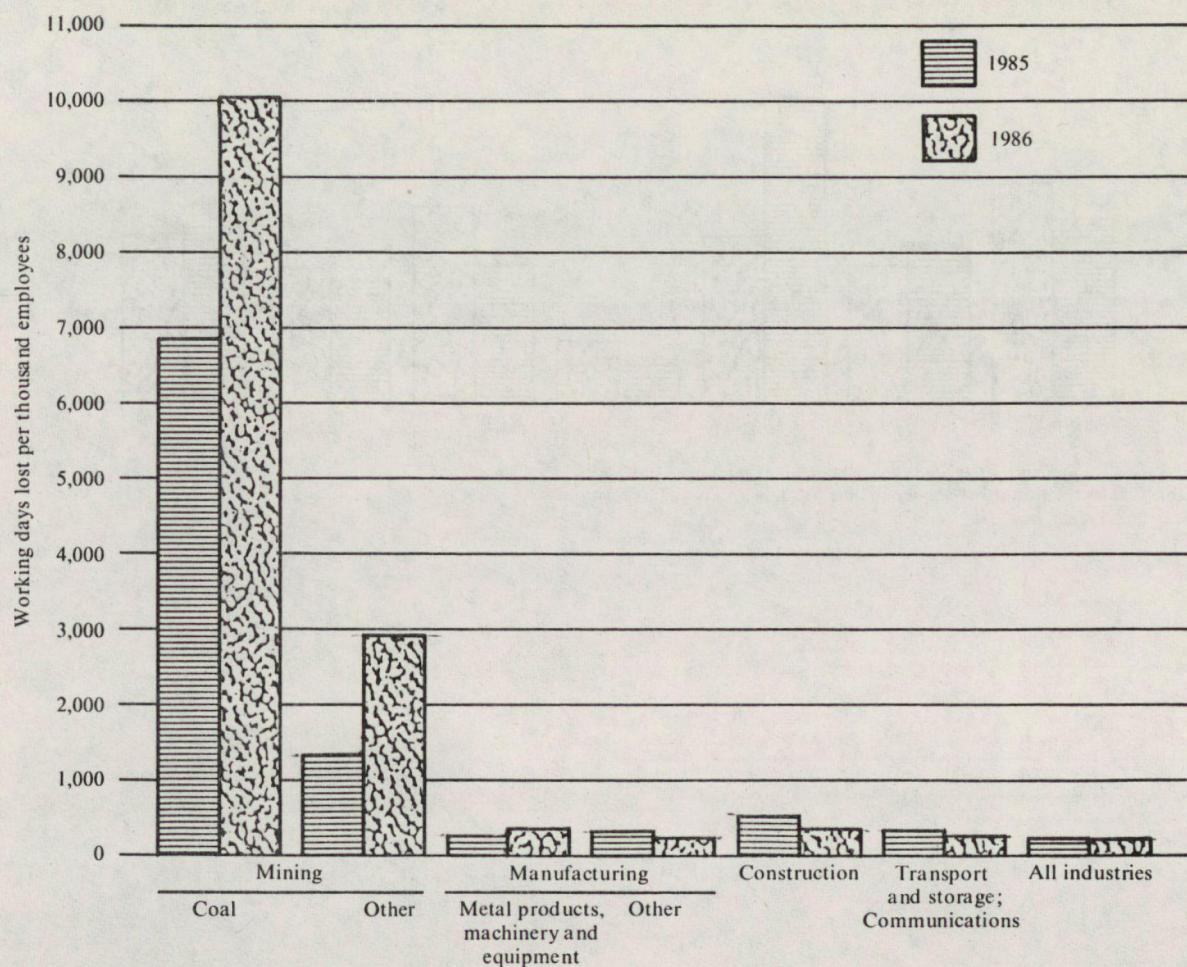
(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	Manufacturing								All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication		Other industries		
	Coal	Other				Other	Construction			
1983	3,223	3,375	353	186	1,269	485	42	249		
1984	3,543	3,286	327	387	427	346	94	246		
1985	6,739	1,724	242	296	580	404	75	230		
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>										
October 1985	6,878	1,322	297	308	566	340	91	237		
1986	10,069	2,941	398	285	364	260	40	228		

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff.

CHART 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER 1985 AND 1986 (a)

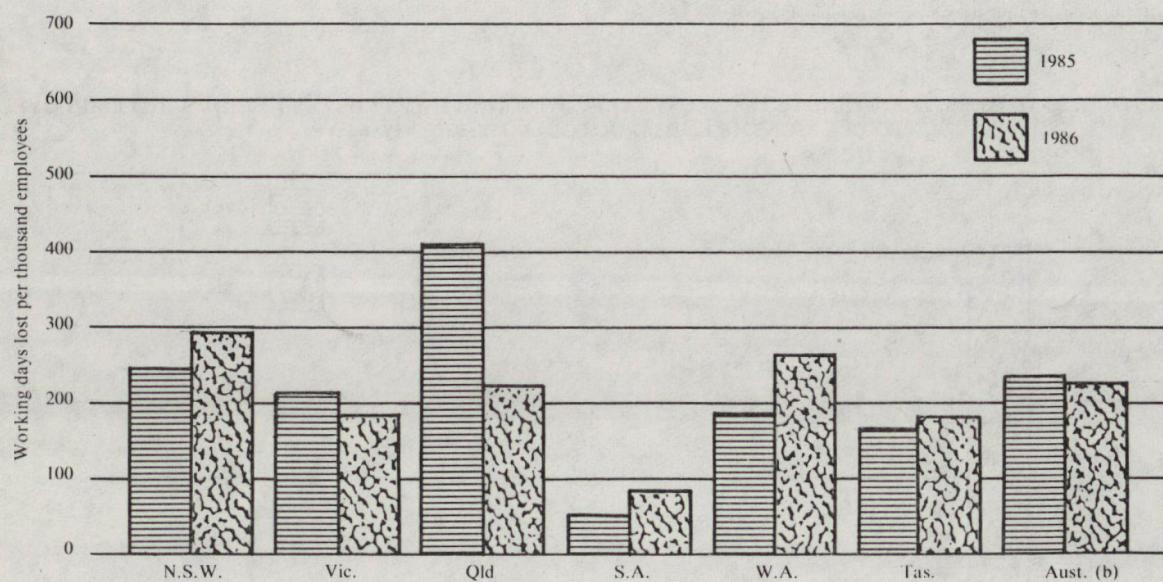


(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff.

**TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)**

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1983	287	163	176	115	577	478	249
1984	355	131	301	56	251	352	246
1985	209	239	417	48	190	145	230
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
October 1985	248	216	410	58	188	168	237
1986	299	186	217	86	263	187	228

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

**CHART 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER 1985 AND 1986 (a)**

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff.

(b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.